



MINUTES

COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION

City of Riverside

December 14, 2000, 6 p.m.

Council Chambers

Present: Commissioners Brewer, Egson, Hendrick, Howe, Gardner, Goldware, and Redsecker

Absent: Commissioners Garcia and Huerta

Interim Vice-Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner Brewer and seconded by Commissioner Hendrick to approve the minutes for the monthly meeting of November 2000. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Williams reported that there have been five lodged complaints and none filed. He also reported that in the last month, he attended meetings held by the Riverside Coalition for Public Accountability, the Human Relations Commission and the Chamber of Commerce's "Good Morning, Riverside". He also mentioned that there would be a notice of the Commission's monthly meetings in the Press-Enterprise.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Upon the initial request for public comment by Interim Vice-Chair Gardner, none were made.

TRAINING

Supervising Deputy City Attorney Greg Priamos gave a short presentation regarding the Police Officers' Bill of Rights and answered the Commissioner's questions.

ELECTION OF PERMANENT OFFICERS

Following discussion and without formal motion, the Commission created a third sub-committee to determine the method of officer selection. This sub-committee is comprised of Commissioners Goldware and Redsecker. Executive Director Williams stated that CPRC staff would send a letter to the commissioners to determine interest in serving as Chair and Vice-Chair.

RETENTION OF OUTSIDE LEGAL COUNSEL

This item was removed from the agenda pending further discussion with the Legal Department.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Howe informed the Commission that the Investigative Rules & Regulations Sub-Committee had not been able to meet due to illnesses. Vice-Chair Gardner stated that he had 60 – 70% of the General Rules & Regulations in draft form, but had not been able to review this draft due to the illness of his co-committee member. Due to schedule conflicts at the time, Commissioner Gardner replaced one of the commissioners on the General Rules & Regulations Sub-Committee.

Commissioner Brewer made a motion to adjourn. However, as there was time remaining, Vice-Chair Gardner issued another invitation for public comment, which was accepted by several people.

Mary Shelton asked why Agenda Item 7 (retention of outside legal counsel) was removed, wondering when the public would know about the opinion that came back from outside counsel or who that counsel would be, when this information would be disseminated to the public and how outside opinion would influence the decisions of the Commission. Executive Director Williams answered that information released to the public after the Commission reviews a case is something that is still in the process of being determined. He stated that the need for outside counsel is one of several options that are being discussed.

Art Garcia suggested that the agenda be printed in the Press-Enterprise, stating that it would give citizens a chance to review agenda items before the meeting in order to have a Request to Speak form turned in prior to the commencement of the meeting. He also felt this would give the public more opportunity to know what the Commission is doing. Vice-Chair Gardner stated that there is a mailing list/sign-in sheet for this purpose and that a notice of when and where the Commission's meetings are held is published in the Press-Enterprise.

Chani Beeman suggested that the public be given a chance to speak at the beginning and at the end of the meetings, but preferred the end so that the public could give feedback on what occurred in the meeting. She also cautioned the Commission against taking the path of least resistance in determining the process by which the officers will be selected, stating that the Commission has to be a very active and responsive group.

Gloria Willis asked how fast and effectively the Commission would address the Tyisha Miller incident and the subsequent freeway demonstration. She also expressed concern about the Commission's involvement in the community, specifically east side areas, and is also concerned about racial profiling. She also asked the Commission to publicize information on how citizens can apply for the Community Police Review Commission. Vice-Chair Gardner explained that the Tyisha Miller incident and freeway demonstration occurred too long ago, stating that the Commission can only deal with complaints filed within the last six months and that, unless complaints were filed against an officer or RPD specific to these incidents, the Commission would not make findings or recommend an action with regard to these incidents.

Doug Leeper answered Ms. Willis' question about applying for the Commission, stating that a notice for the submission of applications for public commissions had been placed in the Press-Enterprise, but that the deadline for acceptance of those applications was December 8, 2000. Mr. Leeper also commented favorably on the contact he had with an officer who had stopped him for a minor traffic violation, saying that he appreciated the officer's attitude and feels that the Riverside Police Department is doing a good job. He also mentioned that he had e-mailed Chief Leach praising the officer who had stopped him.

Commissioner Howe re-emphasized the importance of going out into the community and attending meetings, stating that if it isn't part of the Commission's Rules & Regulations, the commissioners should take it upon themselves to attend at least one community meeting a month, introducing themselves and the Commission. Vice-Chair Gardner mentioned that the City Clerk's Office has a list of the commissioners that is available to the public. Commissioner Brewer stated he feels that the commissioners should have a good idea of how the Commission is going to be operated before they go out into the community putting forth their individual ideas as to how this will be done, and that the Commission is not yet at a point where this is known.

Executive Director Williams mentioned that a list is being developed of the various neighborhoods within the City and the community groups within those neighborhoods and hopes to find out when and where these groups meet by the end of February. He also stated that if an organization is not on our list, to let us know and they'll be added. He also stated that the Rules & Regulations of the Commission should require commissioners to attend community meetings.

Vice-Chair Gardner, in response to another of Ms. Willis' question about racial profiling, stated that the Riverside Police Department is conducting a study about this, which should be completed within the next three months.

Ralph Avila commented on his traumatic experience with the Riverside Police Department, stating that he has asked for international observers from a neutral country to look at what's being done in Riverside, and referred specifically to Mexican President Ernesto (Vincente) Fox. He also asked for Commissioner Garcia to resign.

Commissioner Brewer restated that a motion to adjourn was on the floor.

Executive Director Williams requested the commissioners to remain after adjournment for a group photo for the City's quarterly publication, Riverside Report, adding that Communications Officer Laurie Payne could give more information regarding the publication. Laurie Payne spoke briefly, stating that the newsletter goes out to about 125,000 homes, that she is working with Executive Director Williams on an informational brochure about the Commission and that they are working hard to inform the City's residents about the Commission.

Commissioner Egson seconded the motion to adjourn.

The Commission adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

PHOEBE SHERRON
Administrative Clerk